



Academy

**Harry Leonardatos, Ph.D., Principal**

**TO: Academy Students and Their Parents**

**RE: Summer Reading for next year's students of Combo Grade 10 American Studies-Literature:**

We are very excited that you will be joining **Combo Grade 10 American Studies Literature** next fall. This summer, you are assigned to read Washington Irving's "**Rip Van Winkle**" published in 1819. The full text can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/49avc272>

*Rip Van Winkle is a short story set in colonial New York. It is about a kind, but lazy man, who falls asleep in the mountains and wakes 20 years later to find his village transformed by the American Revolution.*

## ASSIGNMENT

**Objective:** Explore how Irving's story reflects America's transformation after the Revolution by comparing Rip's village before and after his 20-year sleep.

**Task:** Create a "Then vs. Now" Infographic with images and text, highlighting:

- Government (British rule vs. democracy)
- Social Life (quiet village vs. busy, opinionated townspeople)
- Symbols (portrait of King George vs. George Washington)

### **Requirements:**

- Include at least 3 direct quotes from *Rip Van Winkle* that show Rip's confusion or observations.
- Be creative! Add humor, Rip's old-fashioned language, or dramatic reactions.

### **Reflection (1 paragraph):**

- How does Irving use humor to show the Revolution's impact on ordinary people?